

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

*The American Medical Association Meeting.*—Of course you have not forgotten that the American Medical Association is to meet this month in Los Angeles, beginning June 27. And also, of course, you have made your arrangements to attend the meeting. It promises to be larger than had been expected, for a number of parties and special trains are being made up from Eastern points to come out to the Coast and combine a vacation trip with attendance upon the sessions at Los Angeles. If you have not already made reservation of a room for yourself, you had better do so at once, as we learn that most of the larger hotels are already nearly, if not quite, fully reserved and the others are filling up rapidly. If you have any difficulty, write to the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, Dr. H. Bert Ellis, Bradbury Block, Los Angeles, and the matter will be attended to promptly by the proper committee. A list of the hotels, with rates, and of the meeting places and headquarters was printed in the last issue of the *Journal*. . . .

*The Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting of the State Society at Santa Barbara was, in every respect, a most successful one. The hotel was comfortable and the management did everything in their power to make our stay pleasant. The weather was perfect and the outings most enjoyable. The scientific program was very good indeed, which fact was sufficiently proved by the attendance at the various sessions and the discussions which the papers brought forth. The plan of having the Committee on Scientific Program retain its personnel, changing one member each year, will undoubtedly prove to be a wise change in our by-laws. Experience in getting up programs is half of the work; one soon learns what not to do and that is the most important thing.

*Changes in Medical Law.*—Legislatures are fearful and wonderful things; they keep one excited for months, they leave one dazed when they adjourn, and then, after one has had time to come back to normal and contemplate the result, he often finds some startling things have happened. In the last days of a legislature it is difficult to keep track of what passes and what does not; and then comes the added difficulty of finding out what the Governor has approved and what he has allowed to die a natural death. Two bills directly amending the medical law were passed by the last legislature and at the eleventh hour were signed by the Governor, for some reason or reasons that cannot be discovered. One bill, introduced by Hurd of Los Angeles, Senate Bill No. 875, in its original form contained a number of provisions the real import of which was to license almost any one who applied for a certificate to practice. This was beaten, but on reconsideration, Hurd amended everything out of the bill except one clause allowing the Governor to appoint the Board of Examiners without nominations from the various societies and associations which, under the former law, elected twice as many nominees as there were appointments to be made, and from these nominees the Governor had to make his appointments. At the time of writing, the Governor has not signified his selection of examiners. The other bill that passed was prepared by the attorney for the Board of Examiners and was intended to compel a licensed physician to practice under his own name and to make companies, and similar institutions, display in a conspicuous place the names of the licensed physicians employed by them to practice. It passed the

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

### News

"A resolution endorsing the Initiative petition, which would amend the State constitution to allow county hospitals to accept pay patients, was adopted by Palermo Grange yesterday." (*Sacramento Union*, May 8, 1936.)

"Indications today were that the County Board of Supervisors will submit to the voters of Sacramento County a charter amendment opening the Sacramento County Hospital to persons other than indigents. . . ." (*Sacramento Bee*, April 28, 1936.)

"An Assembly Interim Committee was informed today that a survey of more than 20,000 California families to determine the need of state health insurance will be completed in two months and presented to the legislature. The committee, headed by Thomas J. Cunningham of Los Angeles, concluded a two-day hearing here on the feasibility of state health insurance. Dr. Paul Dodd of the University of California at Los Angeles told the committee the California Medical Society and Federal Government are making a survey jointly. It covers family income, expenditures for medical and dental care, and any illnesses that did not receive treatment. A score of Southern California doctors testified before the committee. . . ." (United Press dispatch, dated Los Angeles, May 9, and printed in the *Oakland Tribune*, May 10, 1936.)

"Compulsory health insurance was described as dangerous by Glenn O. Stout, Sacramento, who yesterday appeared in Los Angeles before an Assembly Committee. Stout, representing the State Credit League, said the plan was a dangerous threat to fraternal groups, the Associated Press reported. . . ." (*Sacramento Union*, May 10, 1936.)

"The expert witness is steadily assuming greater importance in the field of medical and dental jurisprudence. Attorney Byron C. Hanna of Los Angeles told the members of the Glendale Bar Association, the Glendale Medical Association, and the Glendale Dental Society at their joint dinner meeting last night in Oakmont Club. . . . He predicted that the expert witness will bear an increasingly important part in the professions of medicine and dentistry in matters of litigation." . . . (*Glendale News Press*, April 15, 1936.)

Report relates that the People's Health League has been organized by certain naturopaths and chiropractors in Los Angeles, with Henry Gross, naturopath, president; W. D. Noland, licensed chiropractor, secretary; and Nephi Cottam, licensed chiropractor, trustee. It is said that in their advertising matter they referred to the "Education 1 Department," "Cosmopathic School," and "The Somopathic University." The records of the Board of Medical Examiners indicate that William D. Noland was on October 31, 1935, found guilty of two counts of violation of Section 15 of the Chiropractic Act ("News Items," January, 1936, p. 30). Nephi Cottam, D. C., claims to be the inventor of "craniopathy," said to be a sort of chiropractic adjustment, by which he claims to be able to manually move the bones of the skull.

Investigation reports relate that on April 29, in the Municipal Court of Los Angeles, James J. Connor,

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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